



### ***Landfill Fire Ignites Local Opposition***

TDEC staff and Crockett County Mayor Gary Reasons were faced with the challenge of achieving compliance in the operation of the Green Earth Landfill. The site had become a local “eyesore” and cause for concern among area residents.

The operators of Green Earth Landfill were not properly operating the site and were not providing daily cover of the on-site waste. Nearby residents were highly concerned about conditions at the site and the potential impacts on their health and the environment.

While TDEC was seeking to bring the site into compliance the waste at the site caught fire. The fire quickly engulfed the entire 5-acre site and was producing a smoke plume that could be seen for miles. Due to the size and intensity of the fire, initial firefighting operations were unsuccessful, and the fire had to be contained and allowed to burn itself out.



Working with EPA, the area around the site was monitored to ensure residents were not exposed to harmful air contaminants, and operations were begun to cover the entire site with two feet of soil. The site was ultimately covered, sloped to drain properly, and secured to prevent additional dumping.

Several area residents commented on how appreciative they were of the response to the fire and the fact that the site was closed to dumping. One resident even brought brownies for workers.

